

WARE RIVER NEWS

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A BIG *Thank you* to WCES teachers

By Eileen Kennedy

WARREN – Becky Peloquin, a Warren Community Elementary School paraprofessional and parent, wanted to find a way to say

thank you to the school's teachers as they go above and beyond during this time of COVID-19 distance learning.

"We just wanted to do something so I sent out a simple email

asking for photos on the school's PTO and a local mom's page," she said. Before she knew it, she there were enough photos of children with their artwork showing they miss and care about their teachers

to put together a colorful poster.

"The teachers have been absolutely terrific," she said about the teachers as they began long-distance learning and making sure students had everything they needed.



Board supports medicinal cannabis

Curaleaf wants to add to Ware store

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – At its Tuesday meeting the SelectBoard voted to support Curaleaf's intention to move its pending medicinal marijuana license to its Ware store, which still needs to be approved by the Cannabis Control Commission and the town's Planning Board. The host agreement between Curaleaf and the town will also have to be amended. The vote was 3-1, with SelectBoard member John Carroll voting no, and member Nancy Talbot not in attendance.

Curaleaf opened a recreational cannabis store in Ware in mid-March in a shopping center on

Route 32 between the Asian Garden restaurant and O'Reilly's Auto Parts store. It has been closed since March 24, along with the rest of the state's recreational cannabis stores once Gov. Charlie Baker decided it was not an essential service. The shutdown of non-essential businesses was instituted to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Curaleaf Massachusetts President Patrik Jonsson, joining the meeting via Zoom web conferencing, said the company would provide 3 percent of its income from medicinal cannabis as well as 3 percent of its recreational cannabis. The company has a medicinal cannabis application for its Provincetown location before the state, he said, and wants to change it to its Ware

Please see **CANNABIS**, page 3

★ HOMETOWN HEROES ★

Sarah Duff works on COVID-19 unit

Editor's Note: Do you know someone in the Ware River News' coverage area who is a hometown hero these days as a first responder, nurse, doctor, grocery worker, transportation worker or in some other capacity? If you do, send their name and how to contact you and the person you think should be featured to ekenedy@turley.com.

In her third year of nursing school

By Curtis Fraser
Special correspondent

WORCESTER – Normally at this time of year, Worcester State University junior Sarah Duff would be in the midst of her field hockey team's non-traditional spring practice schedule, perhaps running sprints on Coughlin Field, leading her team in a post-practice stretch or working out with her teammates in the DeFeudis Fitness Center.

Her non-traditional spring season, however, turned out to

Please see **DUFF**, page 2



Turley Publications courtesy photo
Sarah Duff, in her personal protective gear as she works in a COVID-19 ward at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester. Duff, a Quabog Regional Middle High School graduate, is attending Worcester State University where she is studying nursing, and is scheduled to graduate in 2021.

Variety of food resources available

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – During Tuesday's board meeting, SelectBoard Chairman Alan Whitney said he had requested the topic of food banks be put on the agenda so residents would know what resources are available to them.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the Western Mass Food Bank had made food available for distribution Tuesday, which had been



Turley Publications photo by Melina Bourdeau
Many volunteers helped to load cars with bags of food from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Greenville Park on Tuesday.

Please see **RESOURCES**, page 3

Volunteers reach out to veterans

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

BROOKFIELD – As COVID-19 began to circulate, The Brookfield Institute, which helps veterans and their families, decided to gather up its volunteers and reach out to veterans in case they were without necessities or a warm voice at the end of their phone line.

The mission of The Brookfield Institute is to prevent veteran suicide and bring increased well-being

to veterans and their families through education and outreach. The overall goal, through their work, is to help veterans, their families and communities develop the skills and tools to build resilience.

"In this time of collective trauma, we're very aware that everyone is under more stress and may have more anxiety," said Brookfield Institute Executive Director Beverly Prestwood-Taylor. She said the situation can make people irritable, weepy and

foggy-headed as they live with their anxiety or other issues made worse by today's circumstances.

"This affects our brains and our thinking brains can shut down as a result," she said. After deciding to check on veterans in the Ware-Palmer-Warren-Belchertown and Brookfields region, the Institute gathered up volunteers and began calling veterans to make sure they were all right and had everything they needed, she said.

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Fire still being investigated

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RECREATION

Ware Rail Trail

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Spring season prospects bleak

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Connect with us



WareRiverNews

Counting turtles



We would love to give you or your kids a fun little project each week.

Find **TURLEY** (the turtle) our new mascot within the paper. Have fun and count how many times you find Turley. Email your results along with your name, town and turtle count from what paper to ekennedy@turley.com. We will post your name and count in the following weeks paper. *Correct answers will be submitted for a monthly drawing and a chance to win a prize.*

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Some essential services

Restaurants (take out open)
Janine's, Gilbertville Road 413-967-7950
Hanna Devine's, Main Street, Thursday to Sunday, 4 to 8 p.m., 413-277-0707
Niko's, Main Street, 413- 967-0469
Villa's, Main Street, 413-967-0200
Lazer's , Main Street, 413-967-3181
Debbie Wong, West Main, 413-967-3336
Teresa's, Palmer Road, 413-967-7601
Subway, West Street, 413-277-0438
Dunkin Donuts, West Street
Taco Bell, West Street, 413, 967-4898
McDonald's, West Street
Wicked Wings, 413-277-0020, hours vary

Banks (drive through services)
Country Bank West Street
Monson Savings, West Street
Westfield Savings, Gibbs Crossing
North Brookfield, Main Street

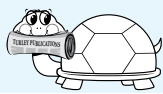
Groceries
Big Y , 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Walmart, 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Convenience/Liquor
Brusso's, West Main Street
Jane Alden, West Street
Ware Package Store, Main Street
Cumberland Farms, West Street
Brookside Mart, West Street

Meals/Food Pick up
Children under 18
Ware Middle School, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Kidstop, Pleasant St., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hillside Village, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Seniors, Senior Center 967-9648, ext.501, week-days 11:30 a.m.
Trinity Church, Jubilee Cupboard, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, diapers also available
Food Bank distribution, Hillside, Third Tuesdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Home Services
BEC Heating and Plumbing
Lowe's
Walmart
LaGrant Electric
Senior Outreach program, 413-867-3001

Pharmacies
Wal-Mart, 9 a.m.
Walgreens, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
CVS, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Are You Old News?



Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.



Last week's photo highlighted Ware High School woodworking teacher Pat Rusiecki and his student Lonnie Murphy, with a Windsor desk Murphy built in class. It was being shown off at a Ware High School Arts Fair. Andy Zajac identified both men correctly while Maxwell Labier did not know Murphy, he identified Rusiecki. Labier said "Mr. Rusiecki was one of the best teachers to ever share his knowledge at Ware High.

If anyone recognizes the people in this week's Ware River News or why they're being recognized please send the answer with your full name to ekennedy@turley.com.

DUFF from page 1

be non-traditional in a completely different sense. Sarah Duff is working directly on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sarah Duff is a healthcare hero. A member of the reigning Little East Conference champion Worcester State field hockey team and a First Team All-Conference selection last season, she usually works as a patient care assistant on the telemetry medical surgical floor at UMass Memorial Medical Center in downtown Worcester. She has since been transferred, however, to a unit dedicated strictly to patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

As a PCA, her job entails providing direct patient care and aiding nurses. The pandemic has caused a severe staffing shortage, which has led Duff to pick up even more shifts than usual. Prior to the pandemic, Sarah was only working four shifts a month at the hospital. She's now working five shifts, or more than 40 hours per week.

She admits that her new role can be emotionally draining at times, but she doesn't have a single regret. "It is very scary working at times like this, especially since I am in the thick of it, but it is also very rewarding knowing that I am helping people," she said.

Duff must wear an N95 mask, goggles, gloves, and a gown throughout the hospital, but all that equipment doesn't necessarily make her feel completely protected. "Each time I go into a room with a patient who tests positive, I think about how I could be catching the virus myself, or worse, (that) could be bringing that same virus home to my family," she said. "But then I think about how each person in this room is the family member of someone, and how I, right now, am this person's sense of 'family,' which to me makes this risk so much more justifiable."

"Me and another nurse may be the only interactions these people have (each) day, which is why I take time in each room to connect with the patient and make them feel like a human," Duff said. "The hardest thing to be asked is to hold an iPad while a family FaceTimes with sick relatives in the hospital when they are unable to communicate."

Her time spent on the field at Worcester State has benefitted Sarah immensely since transferring



Turley Publications courtesy photo by Worcester State Athletics
Sarah Duff is also captain of WSU's field hockey team, as she prepares to become a nurse.

into her new role. "Being a team player is huge on COVID floors," she said.

"Everyone has to help each other and hold strong communication."

Duff is receiving top-of-the-line real-world nursing experience from working through these unprecedented times. "Not many people can say they have worked through a pandemic in their lifetime, so I find this opportunity to be huge," she said. "Everything going on has only made me want to become a nurse more, and has helped me find the motivation to push through the last year of nursing school to finally pursue what I am most passionate about for the rest of my life."

"Sarah has run into the fire head on and, although the nature of her job right now is scary, she hasn't blinked an eye," said a proud Alexa Carlson, Worcester State head field hockey coach, who recently named Sarah a captain on next year's team. "She has been an excellent leader on and off the field for our program the past three seasons, and this is just another example of her strong character and selfless nature."

"We are very fortunate to have such selfless health care providers and first responders," said her

father, Stephen Duff, speaking for he and his wife. "This pandemic requires tremendous teamwork and we couldn't be prouder of Sarah. Quaboag and the Worcester State nursing program and field hockey have prepared her well for this chapter of her life."

Having seen what can happen firsthand, she shared some advice on how to flatten the curve.

"The biggest thing others can do right now is take the stay at home (orders) seriously and stay inside," Duff said. "Coronavirus is real and it is scary, so others need to do their part as well."

While she is certainly not seeking praise, she appreciates and is encouraged by the positive outpouring of support she and her coworkers have received.

"Going to the break room for a meal that a local company has provided, the police parade that circled the hospital, and even the little stones set around the pathway to the hospital with words such as 'hope,' 'smile,' and 'heroes' are just little glimpses into the little things that keep all of us going in times like this," she said."



Canterbury Tails Veterinary Clinic is a full-service clinic serving Ware and the surrounding communities. We see dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, reptiles and pocket pets. Our clinic is currently accepting new patients, and we look forward to meeting you and your pet. We hope to provide a fear-free experience for both pets and owners.

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The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

WARE SELECTBOARD NOTEBOOK

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

These items were discussed during the SelectBoard’s meeting on Tuesday, April 21.

Budget

Since the Ways and Means Committee has been discussing the lack of revenues the state may experience due to large parts of the economy being shut down during efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, SelectBoard members decided not to go over the town budget Tuesday as the numbers will likely change. Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the state was projecting a drop in taxes, revenues and lottery proceeds, but it is still not clear how big the drop will be.

ATM, STM warrants

The SelectBoard did not go over the warrants for the Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting, which may be held on June 1 if possible. Beckley said he would provide the SelectBoard with dollar amounts for the warrant articles.

SelectBoard members voted to put off capital improvement articles to the fall Special Town Meeting due to the expected drop in state revenues, which will likely mean less local aid to the town, at the suggestion of SelectBoard member John Carroll. If an article is of an emergency nature, they will consider it. Beckley said he would send the members the dollar amount for the articles before they are scrutinized at the next SelectBoard meeting.

Many thanks

SelectBoard member Keith Kruckas thanked all the town employees, fire, police, healthcare workers and grocery store employees for their work through the COVID-19 pandemic. “Yes, you are the glue that keeps the world together,” agreed SelectBoard Chairman Alan Whitney.

Scouts

Kruckas also said due to social distancing protocols, Ware Boy Scout Troop 281 has not been able to hold its monthly bottle and can drive, which provides money for Scouts going to summer camp and other activities. “Make sure the word gets out when they can resume them,” he said. “I know they greatly appreciate everyone’s support.” Whitney agreed the Scouts do a lot of great work.

NBSB hires John Thomasian as vice president, CFO and treasurer

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the hire of John Thomasian as vice president/ chief financial officer and treasurer. He joins the bank’s senior management team.

“We are so pleased to welcome John to North Brookfield Savings Bank and to have him as a part of our team,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. “With his strong financial background and local community roots we know his insight and contribution will benefit our customers, communities, and the bank.”

In his role at NBSB, Thomasian will be responsible for providing financial management and direction to the bank’s operation and for all aspects of the bank’s finances, including oversight of the budget, the investment portfolio and the internal and external financial reporting. Furthermore, he will manage the accounting department in addition to working with senior management to uphold the bank’s mission.

Thomasian, of New Braintree,

most recently served as vice president of revenue for Webster First Credit Union where he also served as assistant vice president of finance & collections, and as a finance analyst. Prior to that he held positions at Worcester Police Department Credit Union and Sovereign Bank. In total he brings more than 13 years of accounting and banking experience to North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Thomasian earned a bachelor of science in business administration through Nichols College, with a major in finance and a minor in accounting. He has also completed EasCorp’s Advanced Asset Liability Management & Investment Academy.

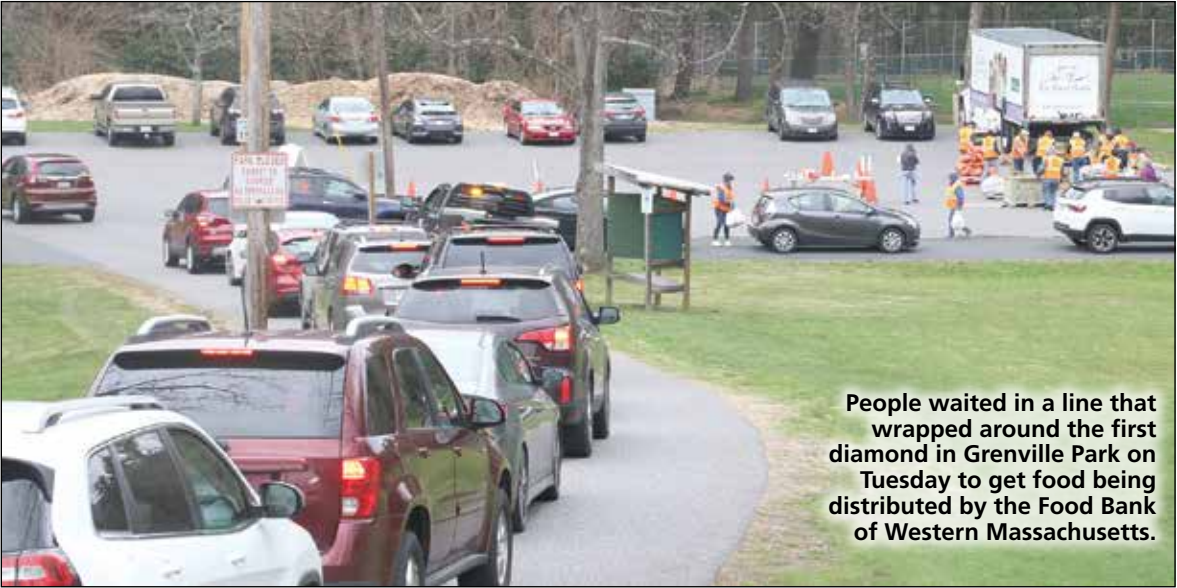
Thomasian is an active participant in the community, volunteering as a coach for Quabbin Youth Basketball, as well as participat-

ing in the annual side-by-side charity for disabled veterans by Operations Playhouse, co-sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. He has also previously served as a committee member of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions Political Action Committee.

“I am excited to join my hometown bank. I grew up in North Brookfield and opened my first savings account with North Brookfield Savings Bank. The saying ‘there is no place like home’ has never rang truer for me than it does now,” said Thomasian. “I look forward to being able to help guide the bank’s financial operations into the future so we can continue to support our communities as well as work collaboratively alongside our staff to provide our customers with the best products and services.”



John Thomasian



People waited in a line that wrapped around the first diamond in Grenville Park on Tuesday to get food being distributed by the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

RESOURCES from page 1

moved to Grenville Park so social distancing protocols could be followed. About 300 people received food, he said, with the vast majority pulling up in cars while volunteers in gloves, masks and vests handed it to them. Those on foot could also receive food. Whitney asked how people are notified about pending food distribution events, and Beckley said through a combination of the town website, emails and phone calls.

Beckley said the town has also partnered with the Amherst Survival Center to have three food distribution dates in Ware in May, most likely at the Senior Center, the Ware Housing Authority and a third location. The town will contact people by email, phone calls and put it on the town website.

He said the Jubilee Food Cupboard, which is part of Trinity Episcopal Church, offers food every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Its phone number is 413-967-3274. The Ware Senior Center offers seniors a lunch, which is picked up by car, every weekday at 11:30 a.m. Seniors must call the center at 413-967-9645 by noon the day before to reserve their meal.

The School Department also provides grab and go breakfasts and lunches for children 18 and under from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,



Turley Publications photos by Melina Bourdeau

There was enough food for about 300 people that was given out to Ware residents from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, according to Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley.

except on days when there is no long-distance learning.

The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corp. also provides free help to seniors in Ware, Hardwick and Warren, for grocery shopping and errand running. The workers have all had criminal background checks. Seniors interested in receiving help must call the QVCDC at 413-967-3001 and ask for Melissa Fales.

Beckley also said the Quaboag Connector, which provides low-income area residents with low-cost rides to and from medical appointments, employment and shopping, is operating three

days a week. It takes one rider at a time due to social distancing protocols and the two vans are constantly being cleaned, he said.

SelectBoard member Keith Kruckas asked about the school’s busing contract and if some of the van used for students could now be used to supplement the town’s vans. Beckley said the town and VanPool, the company providing student van rides, has offered to work with the town.

Donations are welcome at the Jubilee Cupboard and can also be made on the website of the Western Mass Food Bank at www.foodbankwma.org.

Fire remains under investigation

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The April 6 fire of an unoccupied home at 73 West Main St., remains under investigation, according to Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon. It is being investigated by the Fire Department, the Police Department and State Police attached to the Fire Marshal’s office.

The multi-family home, which has been an eyesore since first burning in 2015, is thought to have been suspicious, according to Gagnon on the day of the fire. No one has lived in the home since 2015 and there was no electricity hooked up to the property, Gagnon said.

At the SelectBoard meeting Tuesday, Town Manager Stuart Beckley said recent bids to pull down what is left of the house have been \$20,000 to \$25,000 lower than previous bids to pull down and get rid of the remaining structure.

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey has said anyone with information about the fire can confidentially call the toll-free Arson Hotline 24-hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-682-9229. The



Turley Publications staff photo by Melina Bourdeau

An unoccupied home at 73 West Main St., which burned on April 6, remains under investigation.

Arson Hotline is part of the Arson Watch Reward Program, which provides rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that helps to solve the case. The program is funded by the property and casualty insurance companies of Massachusetts.

No one was injured on April 6, although a neighboring multi-family home had some damage to its siding.

The town purchased the property from its owner several years

ago, and had recently secured grant funding to tear the property down. Previously the town asked for proposals to purchase and reuse the site, but did not receive any offers.

It took several years for the town to buy the property as Town Meeting voters shot down attempts to buy it or to pay for the structure to come down. The homeowner at the time of the fire did not insurance on the home nor could she afford to tear it down.

Virtual Arts Festival to celebrate 50th anniversary of Earth Day on Saturday

REGION – Grassroots Central Mass and Starlite Gallery in Southbridge will host a virtual Earth Day festival, “You Can’t Live Without It,” online, showcasing stories, poetry readings, art and live music on Saturday, April 25, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Attendees are free to drop in to the event by visiting <https://grassrootscentralmass.com/earth-day/>.

This year, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, celebrated by millions around the world to raise awareness and advocacy for improving air quality, cleaning up contaminated lands and protecting our water resources. While efforts to combat coronavirus have prevented in-person celebrations and events, there

is evidence the reduction in activity has reduced pollution and greenhouse emissions around the globe. This event will celebrate Earth, those who protect her and those inspired by her, in a socially-responsible, virtual forum.

The evening will include children’s stories, tree plantings and tips, poetry readings by Poetorium artists and others, and live musical performances. Among the featured musicians, Peruvian-born guitarist and ethnomusicologist Carlos Odria is slated to perform. Odria is a popular and talented guitarist who fuses jazz, Latin and other musical influences. He is in demand for venues across Central Massachusetts and will offer this rare at-home performance.

Visit <https://grassrootscentralmass.com/earth-day/> for the full schedule and participation instructions.

Grassroots Central Mass is a collective of neighbors and activists in Massachusetts towns from Southbridge to the Brookfields to Barre working to help our communities, state and country move forward on issues that impact us all.

Starlite Gallery, at 39 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is a unique bohemian lounge offering original live music, craft beers and craft cocktails, art exhibitions and installations that provide patrons with a creative and stimulating social environment.

Calling all students and teachers

The Ware River News is calling all children – everyone under 18 – to send us artwork, essays and photos. If enough children send pieces on it’s possible we could have a whole issue devoted to them. Please include full names on all submissions so we can give proper credit to the creator. Also, if photos are submitted please identify the people in the pho-

tos. Parents, the if you could forward them to us it would be appreciated.

We’re also asking teachers to send essays, artwork or photos describing what it’s like for them being home and educating students from afar.

Please send all emails to ekennedy@turley.com.

Stay safe. Thanks, Eileen Kennedy, Editor

CANNABIS from page 1

store. The town’s special permit that allowed the recreational store would have to be changed, with its accompanying public hearing, and the host agreement would have to be amended as well. The Ware location is zoned for both recreational and medicinal marijuana, he said.

Jonsson said he did not see the special permit process moving forward until at least May, and it’s not clear what the time frame for changing the location in the CCC application would be. The company just wanted to get the paper work started, he said.

In response to SelectBoard member Tracy Opalinski’s questions about where in the store the medicinal cannabis would be, Jonsson said there would be a counter devoted to medicinal products, and one of the display cases closes to it would hold any products that are more for patients. He also said they would offer essentially the same products to both recreational and medicinal customers, with a few exceptions. There will also be three check-ins for medicinal customers, he said, standing in line, at the initial check-in and again when the product is purchased.

Jonsson also agreed to provide another

\$5,000 toward nonprofits based on the medicinal license, which would be in addition to the \$15,000 the company already agreed to give the town as part of the host agreement for the recreational location. He also asked that clarifying language be added to the host agreement spelling out the town will choose the nonprofits that will receive the money.

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viewpoints

EDITORIAL

Be bear aware this spring

Though it's beginning to look like our shared community life will never emerge from its coronavirus hibernation, spring is definitely in the air — and the bears are waking up.

Soon, flowers will be in full bloom and temperatures will climb above 60 degrees (and stay there). Just as the rising temperatures and blossoming woods inspire folks to get outside, another group of mammals will also be walking around: the black bear.

While bears may be intimidating and strike fear in the minds of many people, bears and people often peacefully coexist with little to no contact. In some instances, they cause property damage to gardens and bird feeders as they search for a quick meal. In most, the bear comes away with a bad reputation or with a bounty on its head.

According to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, there are at least 4,500 black bears statewide. Those bears are now active and in search of food. To avoid property damage or the possible killing of a bear, MassWildlife encourages folks to remove bird feeders, garbage and compost from outside their homes, and to properly secure chickens, beehives and any livestock.

Perhaps their most important piece of advice is to “keep bears wild,” never feeding the animals intentionally or even unintentionally by leaving pet dishes or other food sources outdoors. Officials say most nuisance situations can be avoided by removing food or modifying human behavior.

Rather than using bird feeders, officials suggest planting native plants and adding water features, which may help to increase the attractiveness to birds while reducing the unnatural feeding of bears and other potential nuisance animals.

When composting, folks should avoid adding meat, oily and sweet-smelling or -tasting materials. Such products attract bears and other animals. Garbage, MassWildlife says, should be placed outside just prior to pickup and stored in closed containers in a garage or outbuilding.

Even when cubs are present, officials remind folks it is uncommon for a bear to attack. Mother bears often send their cubs up trees to avoid danger and won't let them down until the threat is gone. If an encounter with any bear occurs, people should calmly back away and avoid running, talking calmly.

In the rare circumstances when a black bear may show aggressive behavior, folks should stand their ground and fight back if necessary. Make noise, wave arms or branches and look bigger than the bear.

More information about living with bears may be found online at mass.gov/bears.

While bears may be intimidating, their presence is often a natural occurrence. By being proactive and being aware of our own behavior, we can keep it that way.

Greens you can grow now

With more time spent at home I am itching to get into the garden, but with temperatures below freezing at night and daytime just topping off in the forties last week what on earth can I possibly plant? Greens!

Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) is a cool weather crop. Seeds can be sown early, as soon as the ground can be worked. Germination can occur in soils as cold as 45 degrees. Don't worry about chilly morning temperatures hurting young seedlings; spinach will tolerate a light frost. Bolting, or seed-setting, occurs naturally as day lengths reach 14 to 16 hours of light per day.

When the plant begins to bolt more energy is spent on flowering and seed production than on leaf making. Leaves become smaller and are usually bitter in taste. I remove the plants from the garden at this point and sow something else in their place. Many people have good luck planting spinach seeds again in July or August for a fall harvest. Still others sow seeds even later in the season, hoping that with a little protection the plants may overwinter and grow like gangbusters in the cool weather of the following spring.

I harvested my spinach (a variety advertised as “slow to bolt”) only two or three times

before it began to set seed. For just a couple of meals the effort was hardly worthwhile. Over the last few years, however, I have been experimenting with a variety of so-called spinach substitutes, and so far am delighted by their taste and durability.

The first is New Zealand spinach (*Tetragonia*). Although its name may imply otherwise, this is not a true spinach. Fresh cut it doesn't taste or look like spinach either, but when cooked it will fill in for Popeye's favorite with no questions asked. The beauty of this sprawling plant is in its productivity; just a few plants will produce enough leaves to feed an entire family. Hard, nut-like seeds may take awhile to germinate. I have found that soaking them in warm water for a few hours prior to sowing will soften the seed coat and quicken the process. New Zealand spinach will likely go to seed late in summer. Let a few seeds drop and with any luck some will sprout in place come spring time. Be forewarned, this plant is not frost hardy. To get a head start I sowed my seeds in six-packs and will plant the seedlings outside when the danger of frost has passed.

Swiss chard is one of my favorite greens; it's not exactly like spinach but it can be used

similarly. So far I have made two sowings. I tried one extra early, on April 6, and another just today. The first sowing hasn't sprouted yet, and I am curious if the seeds will sit until the weather warms and then I'll have two crops exactly the same time or if one will take the lead. You can either cut the leaves when tiny for use in salads or thin the plants and let the leaves grow large where they can be cooked up in a quick stir fry with other veggies. If you are someone who likes making your own green drinks, try juicing a few leaves with an apple and carrots for a healthy alternative to sugary drinks. Chard is a relative to beets. The leaves are very similar. If you want only a few greens, grow beets and harvest some leaves and some roots.

We may not be able to plant our tomatoes or peppers yet, but we can certainly get our hands dirty by planting some spinach, Swiss chard or even beets, right now!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Capitalism has given the U.S. many freedoms

I'm writing in response to the April 2nd guest column by Javier Puente, “A Parasitic Tale”.

In his column, Puente takes us on a lengthy historical tour of pandemic disease and European Colonialism.

The purpose of his labors are revealed in his summary. Having detailed colonialism's many horrors, Puente broadens his critique to Western civilization and capitalism — using guilt by association and implying they must be replaced with socialism and borderless world government.

Western civilization and capitalism have given us political freedom along with economic freedom, mobility and prosperity that few have enjoyed in human history. It's the very reason so much of the world aspires to come here. Surely it would be ridiculous to tear down a great edifice for a broken window. And surely Assistant Professor Puente isn't abandoning socialism for its broken windows — which include poverty, controlled speech, persecution of dissidents, masses yearning to escape, leaders running unopposed for “re-election,” secret police, re-education camps, and tens of millions of deaths in the last century.

Puente lays pandemics at the feet of capitalism but fails to mention that the 1957 Asian



Flu pandemic, 1997 Avian Flu pandemic, 2003 SARS pandemic, and the current COVID-19 pandemic all originated from the world's largest socialist nation — China.

Some observers claim that individuals like Assistant Professor Puente believe our society must be torn apart so they may rebuild it as

their version of utopia — and that they work unceasingly toward this end.

One can only hope that you, our esteemed editor, ran this guest column as a warning to us and not for any sympathy with its viewpoint.

G. J. Devanski, Ware

IN MY BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

The Massachusetts Audubon Society received a report of two red-headed woodpeckers in South Hadley. The red-headed woodpecker is the only woodpecker with an all red head. The body and wings are patterned with black and white. This woodpecker is about eight inches long. It inhabits farmland, open woodlands, suburbs and orchards. Northern populations are migratory and concentrate in woods with abundant acorns. Besides acorns, the red-headed woodpecker feeds on beechnuts, other nuts, insects, bird eggs, nestlings, sap from sapsucker holes, fruit and berries.

Both the male and female excavate a hole in a live or dead tree. They will use birdhouses. The female lays four to five white eggs. Its common call is a loud “kweeet.” It drums softly in short bursts.

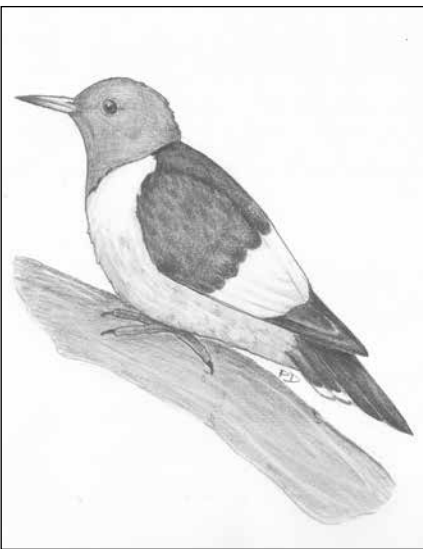
Red-headed woodpeckers cache acorns, nuts and insects in small cavities to use in the non-breeding season. They will conceal the cache by closing it with slivers of wet wood and will defend it from other woodpeckers, jays or crows.

Audubon society

Other bird sightings reported to Massachusetts Audubon Society included a black vulture in Grafton, a barn swallow, marsh wren and gray catbird at Westborough Wildlife Management Area.

Bald eagle

A Petersham couple had a mature bald eagle the morning of April 7 in a tall pine near the house. She said her



Paula Ouimette, the author's daughter, drew this red-headed woodpecker.

husband and a friend called her outside to see the eagle. She said, “He sat there for several minutes. There was a huge bird that circled around and I wonder if it was an immature eagle. When the eagle was in the tree he had squawked at him several times and he flew away.”

The wife said, “I was on my way in my car a few minutes later down the driveway and my friend said I rode right by him. I was wearing that awful mask then.” Her friend took pictures of him, but she said it would be a while before she ventures out to get them developed.

Male cardinal

An Oakham resident had a male cardinal at her feeder around 7:30 p.m. She did not see the female cardinal.

Eastern phoebe

I saw an eastern phoebe last week. Every year, a phoebe rebuilds its nest on the eaves of my house. I also have a phoebe that nest on the outside light at the back door of my camp on Lake Winnisquam.

Birds at my feeder

I am still seeing dark-eyed juncos, but I do not have as many. So far, I saw junco on April 1, 2 and 3 and then there were several days I did not see them. I saw juncos again on April 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Soon, they will be gone and not return until the fall. They are my favorite winter bird.

I had a male American goldfinch that partially had his breeding plumage. He still had some of the olive feathers of winter with the spring yellow and black on the wings and top of the head. The other two goldfinches were females or males that had not started to change plumage.

Easter birds

I saw one female red-winged blackbird, eight red-winged blackbird, one male purple finch, tufted titmice, black-capped chickadees, white-throated sparrow, two grackles, two downy woodpeckers, one hairy woodpecker, two blue jays and one red-bellied woodpecker.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100 or emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com.

GUEST COLUMN

Food for thought

By Chet Boronski
Guest columnist

Perhaps, when science predicted a pandemic, the warning should have been heeded and preparations made.

Perhaps, when science predicts dire consequences of climate change, individuals and leaders should work toward solutions.

Maybe not roll back emission standards. Aren't clean air and water preferred anyway? Maybe not continue to give billions in subsidies to the petroleum industry which makes billions in profits.

Maybe not refuse to sign onto or remain in international agreements to take science-based action. Maybe put subsidies and legislative oomph behind developing solar, tidal, wind, and other renewal sources of energy. Maybe promote or require change over to greener vehicles.

Perhaps, after going through this pandemic, all levels of employment which held our world together — medical, direct retail and delivery, first response, cleaning and maintenance — should be more appreciated and valued.

Maybe recognize the value of immigrant populations at all levels and expand a workable immigration policy, which provide dignity, education and inclusion.

Maybe elevate pay and/or forgive education loans for people in those employment categories.

Perhaps people and corporations (which since Citizens United are people too) which make millions and billions of dollars in profit, should give back more to the country rather than using the extreme wealth to accumulate more wealth.

Maybe they should pay the same percentage tax as the average person.

Maybe, if egos need stroking they could make DILOTs... Donations in Lieu of Taxes...to programs which benefit the nation.

Perhaps the country should advance and maintain the highest levels of preparedness and treatment in medical facilities.

Maybe medicines and equipment should be stockpiled, maintained and updated, and made readily and equally available to all states if needed.

Maybe everyone should have basic, preventive medical care provided. Maybe medical insurance, through a nonprofit corporation, should be available on a sliding scale. Perhaps you have good ideas and can move this conversation forward.

Chet Boronski is a Hardwick resident.

WARE RIVER NEWS



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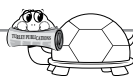
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OPINION POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and “Your Turn” guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
ekennedy@turley.com

The deadline for
submissions is
Monday at noon.



2020 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.



Look out for ogres.



The pathway is pretty wide and inviting at the Ware Rail Trail.



Myrtle blossoms line the edge of the trail.



The trail crosses several low-traffic roadways, with clearly marked crosswalks.



Once visitors arrive at the sand pit, a wide variety of rocks can be seen for geologists of all ages.



Turley Publications staff photos by Paula Ouimette
Some of the view of the Central Mass Rail Trail section off Robbins Road.

RECREATIONAL REMINDERS

RAIL TRAIL offers something for everyone

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

WARE — The town of Ware is home to many beautiful outdoor recreation areas, one of which is a segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail that spans from Robbins Road to Wal-Mart plaza on Palmer Road. The trail is 1.8 miles in length and is mostly comprised of hard-packed gravel surface.

In the wetter seasons, it is recommended to park at the end of Robbins Road, near the steel guardrail and Mass Central Rail Trail sign. A map shows hikers how to access the trailhead by following the dirt road, which is closed to traffic, and looking for

landmarks.

Located near the wastewater treatment site and the former landfill, the Robbins Road trail entrance offers a unique landscape. A young child was overheard proclaiming that if she had a horse, she would be in one of those “cowboy movies,” as the wide-open sky and scrubby vegetation reminded her of the old west. Small, purple myrtle blossoms line the edge of the dirt road, adding a subtle burst of color amid the green of the pine trees.

The trail opens up into a sand pit filled with interesting rocks of all shapes, sizes and colors. Once you pass through the sand pit, the trail weaves its way through

a swampy section that is home to many bird species, including red-winged blackbirds. To the right of the trail, the Ware Fire Station is visible beyond the wetlands.

Utilizing old railroad beds of the former Boston and Maine Railroad, the trail surface of this segment lends itself well to biking, walking and running. This trail is also a popular spot for walking your canine companion. The trail crosses several low-traffic roadways, with clearly marked crosswalks. A bridge spans Flat Brook, with fencing blocking access to the water, making it safer for young children.

We did not venture past Flat Brook on our hike, but will certainly do so in the near future.



A sign post showing the beginning of the Central Mass Rail Trail off Robbins Road.



Walkers take a break at the Central Mass Rail Trail.

Social distancing time-out!

horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, reach out to someone who can help take some tasks off of your shoulders and help lighten your load. Realize you don't have to do everything yourself.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you might not be able to balance your budget this week, but you can still create a big picture analysis of where you want to be financially in the weeks ahead.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Your confidence and power of persuasion are elevated this week, Gemini. Any self-doubt will disappear so you can focus on things you want to accomplish.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you are erecting a protective shell around yourself. There doesn't seem to be any conflict on the horizon, so let your guard down and let others in.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

You have a strong magnetic force about you this week, Leo. If you are looking for love and romance, now may be the time to attract someone new or reignite a preexisting spark.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may not have realized that you have been hibernating away, but it is time to greet the world again. Focus on invites to any and all social events.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, this is a good week to put into practice the “work smarter not harder” mantra. Figure out what needs to get done and then put the people best suited to the jobs on it.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

It has been some time since you've let your hair down and had a good time, Scorpio. Push responsibilities aside for the time being and throw caution to the wind with friends.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

You may need to clear the air with someone close to you, Sagittarius. Try to figure out a good time to have a heart-to-heart discussion in the next few days.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Focus on the people who lift your spirits, Capricorn. These people can help you get through tough times and reinspire the self-confidence that has made you such a success to date.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

The spotlight is on your finances, Aquarius. Looks for ways to grow your savings so you can achieve some of your goals. It may take a few months to see real progress.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

It is time to update your brand, Pisces. That means reinventing yourself. Refresh your résumé and revamp your wardrobe.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to poetry.

E T E M H

Five empty boxes for the word scramble answer.

Answer: Theme

Guess Who?

I am a professional wrestler and actor born in Massachusetts on April 23, 1977. I worked as a chauffeur while pursuing a career in bodybuilding. Although I'm not really a doctor, a previous nickname suggested I was.

Answer: John Cena

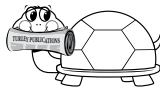
WORDS & VERSE WORD SEARCH

W R L I N E S H O S S Q I S R C L M M H
R E P E A T L B T O Y I T E L P U O C G
N V F R E T E M R I U R S Y O H I P V H
G O M T F A Y N B S M H D A R C Q J P Q
C F U O M Y W N F Y T R E Q H T T G V R
B A L L U S I O N L P Y H M I P E G T B
C S F Y P I O S J L Q I Q H U A M O S C
L A U L D T R H I A L A P M L P M E P A
B I E O I H W H I B V M P L T E E S L S
S U N S Y W Q P H L E B I N U W T A S S
O D O M U B P C W E A T E D I I C J Q O
M A E Q D R A W S S E M I R A I L H W N
G P V S R N A T G R B N E S R E V A F A
M Q I L A F O D A M F L I T I H N N L N
Y R I P C H T T A O P Q E N L P R A R C
A D E P J D I J J Q F M E T O U Q P L E
R S J E P O N G E P I G R A P H P H W O
T J B H N E G N I T I R W R E A O O Y R
A G H P U N C T U A T I O N N Q Q R I S
N I J W W M P J D N I J D W D G V A I I

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ALLITERATION
ALLUSION
ANAPEST
ANAPHORA
ASSONANCE
CAESURA
COUPLET
EMPHASIS
END
ENJAMBMENT
EPIGRAPH
FOOT
IAMB
LINES
METER
METRICAL
POETRY
PUNCTUATION
QUOTE
REPEAT
RHYME
SYLLABLES
VERSE
WRITING



				2	1		7	
		1		5	9	3	2	
					9	1	4	
7				6		1	5	
		9	2	7			8	
		8		4	5	7		2
3	8				7			
	1		6				4	7
2		6		9			3	



Happy spring

answers for the week of 4/15

6	3	9	2	8	7	5	4	1
4	5	7	3	9	1	8	6	2
1	2	8	6	4	5	9	3	7
2	8	6	7	1	3	4	5	9
9	1	3	5	6	4	7	2	8
7	4	5	9	2	8	3	1	6
5	6	2	4	7	9	1	8	3
8	7	4	1	3	6	2	9	5
3	9	1	8	5	2	6	7	4

ANSWERS WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKS PAPERS

FINANCIAL EDUCATION
RESOURCES DURING COVID-19
#KeepLearningAlive

countrybank
Learn more about remote learning resources at:
www.countrybank.com/covid19

Member FDIC | Member DIF

Downtown shop starts GoFundMe page

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – Talk of the Town, an alternative healing and counseling center at 85 Main St., has created a Talk of the Town GoFundMe account so those who need its alternative wellness classes and counseling can have an opportunity to use them. GoFundMe allows people and groups to fundraise on the internet.

Owner Kenneth Chouinard said with the shop closed the business's income has dropped but he wants to make sure the shop can be there when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. He still has to cover rent, utilities and other expenses.

"We'd like to make all these things free but we just can't do it for everyone," he said, so he created the GoFundMe page. "We want to be sure we can help each other."

So far the page has raised \$185

of its \$5,000 goal, as of Wednesday morning.

He offers many alternative healing products including crystals, aroma therapy supplies, books and other items, and he offers wellness classes and counseling.

Chouinard is a licensed therapist who also offers empathetic counseling, as he is an empath, he said. An empath can determine another's mind or emotions. He said he can also determine someone's dissociative states of ego, and help them through past trauma. "It's a very different type of work than traditional counseling," he said. He also offers classes in meditation, holy fire reiki and consciousness raising.

For more information about Talk of the Town go online to www.talkofthetownwarema.com. To access the GoFundMe page go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/talk-of-the-town-support-fund>.



Turley Publications staff photo by Eileen Kennedy
Talk of the Town, on Main Street, in Ware, isn't open but it is taking donations on GoFundMe so those who cannot afford its wellness classes or counseling can get those services. It's window reminds residents of the town's resiliency: Ware, The Town That Can't Be Licked.

We thought we would give you a quick update. First, we are happy to re-introduce weekly sales. We are cautiously optimistic that the market will slowly return back to its pre-Corona days. Until then our frozen items are proving to be the best value. We encourage you to give these items a try!

Second, we have posted throughout the store, on our website and on Facebook our health and safety rules. We kindly ask that you adhere to these in order to protect our customers and hard working staff. If you don't have access to or forgot your gloves no worries here! We are providing a pair of free gloves to each shopper as they enter the store. We are all in this together! Be well and stay safe!

Your Family at 90 Meat Outlet

BUY DIRECT		AND SAVE	
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS..	\$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS BEEF RIBEYE CUT FREE \$6.96 lb OR HALF WHOLE	
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK COUNTRY STYLE RIBS	\$1.37 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SPLIT CHICKEN BREAST TRAY PAK	79¢ lb
USDA INSP. SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....	\$1.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN ROASTER CHICKEN	69¢ lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS TRAY PAK	49¢ lb
IT'S SOUP TIME		USDA INSP. FROZEN ALWAYS TENDER MARINATED HORMEL PORK TENDERLOIN	\$1.99 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN PIGS FEET	\$1.69 lb	90 Meat Outlet	
USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN FEET	\$1.99 lb		
USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF FEET	\$1.99 lb		

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

NEW EXTENDED HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90meat.com

SALE DATES: 4/23/20 - 4/29/20

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90 AVOCADO STREET, SPRINGFIELD 413-737-1288

Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship applications now available

WARE – Applications for the Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship are now available at high school guidance offices. The committee will award the Michael H. Deslauriers scholarship to a graduating senior residing in the town of Ware, regardless of the school district they attend.

To apply for this scholarship, a copy of the student's school transcript and a completed application, which is available at area school guidance offices, must be submitted by May 1.

Please mail the application to Ware Amvets Post 2577, C/O Richard Rucki, 8 First Ave., Ware, MA, 01082.

MassWildlife's COVID-19 response

Staff Report

REGION – In an effort to protect people from the spread of COVID-19, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) has adjusted services, events and operations.

Fishing and hunting:

All hunting and fishing regulations, including licenses, are still in effect during the State of Emergency and Stay at Home Advisory. The revenue generated from license sales goes directly towards conservation, research, stocking, education, and restoration. Licenses can be obtained online by visiting the MassFishHunt online portal. Outdoor activities, and travel to and from those activities, are still permitted. All residents should practice social distancing by remaining six feet away from other people while participating in outdoor activities. Outdoor users should avoid gathering in groups larger than 10 people.

Fishing and trout stocking:

Fishing is allowed during this time with a valid fishing license. MassWildlife is continuing to stock trout this spring. For the safety of MassWildlife staff, please do not approach staff while they are stocking fish. For daily trout stocking updates, please visit mass.gov/trout. Don't share a boat unless it is large enough so that all persons aboard can always remain at a minimum distance of six feet apart. Anglers and other paddlers in canoes and kayaks are reminded they are required to wear a life jacket through May 15.

Hunting:

Hunting is allowed during this time with a valid hunting license. The spring turkey hunting season will open April 27 and run through May 23. Following Gov. Charlie Baker's State of Emergency Declaration, MassWildlife cancelled all 2020

Youth Turkey Hunt Seminars. Only past participants who have completed Basic Hunter Education and the Youth Turkey Hunting Seminar will be able to participate in the youth turkey hunt on April 25.

Wildlife Management Areas

Fresh air and exercise are great ways to support a health year-round. All MassWildlife Wildlife Management Areas remain open to the public to enjoy for fishing, hunting, walking, birding and other nature-based activities. Please remember to stay six feet apart from other visitors and keep pets leashed. MassWildlife encourages the public to visit lesser-known spots and explore the outdoors close to home. If crowded, choose a different location or time to visit. To find WMAs nearby, please visit the MassWildlife Lands Viewer.

Events and Programs:

MassWildlife has canceled all group events and programs through May 31, including all hunter education and angler education courses. MassWildlife will continue to implement recommendations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding any future closures or cancellations.

MassWildlife Offices:

All MassWildlife offices and hatcheries are closed to the public until further notice.

Contact Us:

Since most employees are working remotely, MassWildlife is urging the public to contact staff by email. Access to voice-mails may be limited.

Stay Connected to Nature:

Looking for things to do during the Stay at Home Advisory? Check out MassWildlife's list of recommended activities to keep you and the kids busy, including wildlife coloring pages, videos, fact sheets and more.

Teens, Tweens, and Quarantines

.....

A Virtual Parent Forum

Learn about the impact of COVID-19 on youth mental health and what parents can do to provide support. Discuss practical approaches to parenting, the signs of stress, anxiety, and depression, and how we can help our youth navigate home, family, friends, and school.


Presented by Jon Mattleman from Minding Your Mind with support from Kristal Cleaver, Director of Community Education from Clinical Support Options.

Tues., April 28
4:00pm

Register at:
mindingyourmind.org/TTQ-SPIFFY

.....

Questions? Email:
hwarner@collaborative.org



MINDING YOUR MIND

www.mindingyourmind.org



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Prospects of spring season looking bleak

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – As the state celebrates Patriots Day along with the spring vacation week where many spring teams would normally be playing baseball and lacrosse games at 11 a.m. and 12 noon rather than the tradition 4 p.m. starts, there is nothing happening on any fields this week.

The MIAA's Board of Directors, in conjunction with guidance and recommendations made by the Tournament Management Committee, head into a crucial week seeking to start the spring season on May 4.

However, that start date is contingent on Gov. Charlie Baker starting the process of "opening the state back up."

Unfortunately, with time waning, and guidance from the federal government, it does not appear as though Massachusetts will be opening up, specifically for classes, on May 4. No school means no spring sports for athletes across the state.

Massachusetts is not among the nearly 30 states in the nation that has shut down school for the remainder of the academic year. Baker has said he does not want to shut schools down for the remainder of the year and was hopefully to get students back into the classroom even for a short period of time.

However, the MIAA's current plan for a 12-game slate and sectional playoff run is contingent on schools being re-opened on May 4. Another delay, which would likely be a minimum of two weeks in length, would be catastrophic to the plan.

"We (the Pioneer Valley

Interscholastic Athletic Conference) came up with a modified schedule for the shortened season," said Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton, a member of the PVIAC Board of Directors. "But it could up being a futile exercise."

Time is running low, but Baker has yet to make a call on whether or not the stay-at-home advisory, non-essential businesses being closed, and schools being shuttered will remain in effect.

The last meeting of the MIAA Board of Directors was held by teleconference on Thursday, April 16. At the meeting, the board voted on some simple items, stating that in a cost-saving measure, tournament semifinal games would be held at the site of the higher seed. Semifinals and finals are normally held on neutral turf.

However, in the case of baseball and softball, UMass and Western New England University have been that neutral turf. College campuses have remained closed, and it is very possible colleges may not want events at their fields. Some colleges have even talked about continuing distance learning until a vaccine is found for the coronavirus.

While it was not a formal vote, the minutes of the meeting note that more than 20 states had officially called off spring sports, specifically. But the MIAA will follow the guidance and expectations made by Gov. Baker.

The next meeting of the MIAA Board of Directors is set for May 5. However, a special meeting could be scheduled sooner if and when Baker makes a decision about the remainder of the school year.

iRacing league set for upcoming events

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn. – New events have been added to both Stafford Speedway's driver and fan iRacing leagues including a new invite only Tour Type Modified Invitational set for Friday, May 15. All Phases Renovations has stepped up as the presenting sponsor of the four-event series that will include three different types of cars as well as weekly payouts for the top-3 finishers.

The 4-race schedule is set to include a Street Stock race, Late Model race, and two Tour-Type Modified races. The first 3 events will pay a weekly \$250 purse across the top-3, including \$150 to win, \$75 for 2nd and \$25 for 3rd. The Modified Invitational scheduled for Friday, May 15th will pay \$350 to win, \$200 for 2nd, and \$150 for 3rd. The 80-lap Tour-Type Modified event will be invitation only. Winners from Friday's events will have a guaranteed entry in the Invitational. Additional criteria to enter the race will be announced in

the coming weeks.

"iRacing has been a great way to get our racing fix," explained Larry Westgate of All Phases Renovations. "We really enjoyed last week's event and we look forward to mixing it up with a few different divisions and capping off the series with a special event and a bigger purse."

All Phases Renovations, based in Massachusetts, are your hard-scape and carpentry specialist. With projects ranging from patios, to outdoor bars and kitchens, to pool renovations, All Phases can tailor your outdoor construction needs. For more information and to check out some of their work visit their Facebook Page.

Bonssa Tufa and Jeff Maconi will continue to host the live broadcast of these events weekly on the Stafford Speedway YouTube page beginning at 7pm. Be sure to subscribe to the Stafford Speedway

Please see **I-RACING**, page 8

Pioneers will not play 2020 season

GM hopes there will be some exhibitions and an Open Cup this year

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – It was an unprecedented season for the Western Mass. Pioneers in the 2019 season. The team made it all the way to conference semifinals last year before suffering their first defeat of the season.

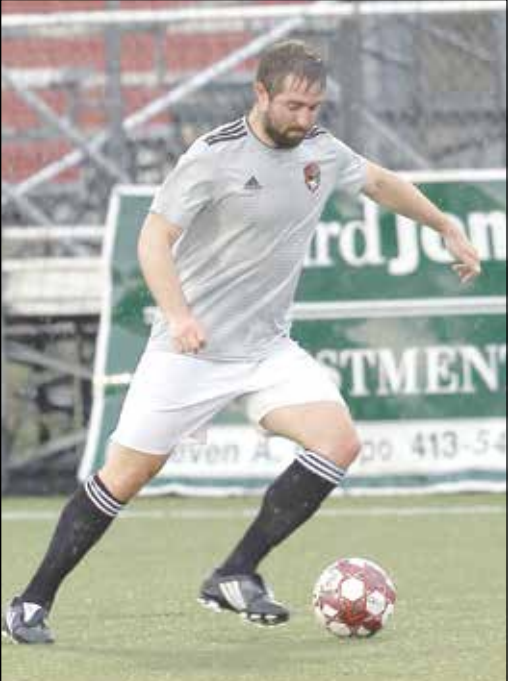
Now, with plenty of players from last season and their coach returning, they will not have the opportunity to follow up on that great success.

The USL-Two announced last Wednesday that the Northeast Division has made the difficult decision not to participate in any type of 2020 regular season due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Greg Kolodziej, the general manager of the Pioneers, expressed disappointment in the fact the Pioneers will not be able to follow up on what they accomplished last season.

"Yeah, definitely crazy and unprecedented times," said Kolodziej. "We were extremely excited about this season. We had a good group of players returning from last year's team along with some excellent new recruits. We had qualified for the U.S. Open Cup, and were looking forward to some fun and exciting games at the

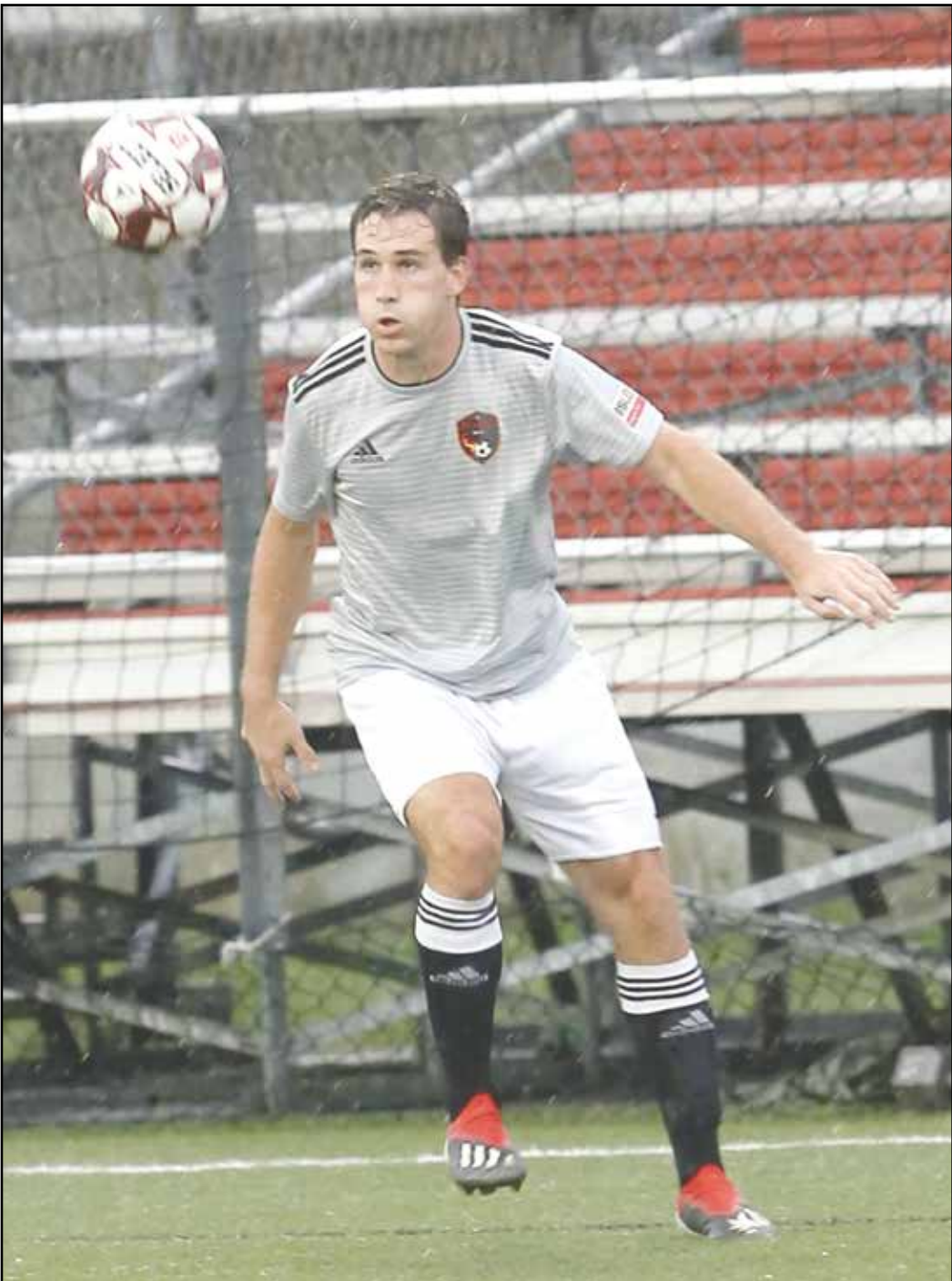
Please see **PIONEERS**, page 8



Ben Brewster starts a move up the field.



Micah Umeh sends a shot away.



Guillermo Deal tries to settle a ball during last year's division clinching game.



Several defenders create a way to block a free kick.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Valley Blue Sox looking to start regular season on time

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox were champions of the New England Collegiate Baseball League in 2017 and 2018. They made it to the semifinals in last year's playoffs.

Now, more than ever, college athletes will be looking at leagues like the NECBL to make their mark for their colleges and prospective baseball scouts. The

NECBL released a statement recently regarding the status of the 2020 season, currently set to open in up early June:

"We continue to closely monitor the rapidly changing situation involving the outbreak of COVID-19 and its impact on our 2020 summer season.

We are hopeful that we will play baseball this summer, and

we continue to plan for our summer season, including accommodating college seniors who are now eligible to play and what our season may look like. That said, our first priority is the health and well-being of our players, host families and fans. As part of our monitoring we are communicating with MLB, the NCAA and the National Alliance of Collegiate

Summer Baseball. We will regularly review decisions and guidance from federal, state and local officials, and the leadership of our host communities to obtain the most current information on the virus, and to understand and implement the most current recommendations and directives.

As we assess this changing situation, foremost we recognize that college athletes lost their spring season, and because of this, summer baseball is more important to our players and coaches than ever before. That's why – even in the context of today - we will continue to plan for summer ball and make every extra effort to get our college players on the field. Our season may not look the same, but our

role in player development has never been more important. And to our dedicated fans and sponsors, your support has never been more important. We appreciate your long and steadfast support and are hopeful to see you again this summer at the ballpark.

As we make decisions about our summer season, we will keep you fully informed.



\$31/Year | \$36 Out-of-State

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Obituaries

Death notices

Linda L. Bates
April 8, 2020

Lowell, Charles
Died April 15, 2020
Memorial Service
at a later date
Charbonneau Funeral
Home, Ware

McCaffrey, Maura C.
Died April 14, 2020
Memorial Mass
at a later date
Cebula Funeral Home, Ware

Nickerson, Patricia A. (Berkeley)
Died April 5, 2020
Private graveside service
Charbonneau Funeral
Home, Ware

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Maura C. McCaffrey

WEST BROOKFIELD – Maura C. McCaffrey, 50, passed away on April 14, after a long illness. To say Maura was an amazing woman is an understatement. She was born on Sept. 10, 1969, a daughter of the late James and Christine Walsh.

Maura avidly pursued her education and graduated from St. Bernard’s High School, received a pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island and a master’s in business administration in healthcare administration from Anna Maria College. Maura also completed Executive Education programs at both the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and Babson College. She began her career as a CVS pharmacist and later worked for Eli Lilly in sales. In 2002, Maura started her career at Health New England where she rose through the ranks to become president and CEO of the company, and serve as a member of Baystate Health’s President’s Cabinet.

Maura volunteered and served

on many boards some of which included: Chairwoman of the Western Mass Economic Development Council, Secretary of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, executive committee member of Health Plan Alliance, Western New England University board of trustees and Country Bank for Savings. She was also a mentor in Babson’s Women’s Executive Leadership program and America’s Health Insurance Plans. She was proud to be inducted into Bay Path University’s Women Business Leaders Hall of Fame in 2015.

Maura was not only a devout student and dedicated worker, but also a mentor and friend to many. Maura was extremely humble and kind, she liked to remind people to “Be Your Best Self.” She was widely respected and loved and will be deeply missed; especially by her husband and her sons of whom she was so proud.

Maura leaves to cherish her memory, her husband, Edwin, of West Brookfield, her sons, Patrick, Unites States Marine Corps Camp Pendleton in California, and Connor, Unites States Marine Corps, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. She also leaves her mother, Christine, of Winchendon, her sister, Colleen Fay, and her husband, Jim, of Templeton, her brother, John Walsh, and his wife, Barbara McManus, of Rutland, and her dear friend, Jean Brodowski, of Feeding Hills. Maura also leaves many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins as well as many friends.

Due to the timing of her passing, a memorial Mass and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Cebula Funeral Home was entrusted with the final arrangements. Please visit www.cebulafuneralhome.com for more information and a guestbook.

Patricia Anne Nickerson

HARDWICK – Patricia Anne (Berkeley) Nickerson, 88, of Hardwick, died on Sunday, April 5, 2020, at JGS Lifecare.

She leaves her children, Jeanne Aldrich, and her husband, Darwin, of Tennessee, Donald H. Nickerson Jr., of New Mexico, Linda Randall, and her husband, David, of Ohio, Patrice Croak, and her husband, Lowell, of Massachusetts, Doreen Sylla and her husband, Bob, of Massachusetts, Deanna LaFave, and her husband, Chris, of New Hampshire, Steven Nickerson, of California, Jack Nickerson, and his wife, Lisa, of Arizona, and Melody, of New Jersey, 16 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, two sisters, Joyce and Betty, and also many nieces and nephews. Patricia was predeceased by her husband, Donald, and by six of her siblings, Gordon, Stuart, Russell, Pauline, Grace and Nancy Jo. She was born in Owego, New York, daughter of the late Paul and Charlotte (Beug) Berkeley

Patricia was a registered nurse at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital before retiring.

She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend to all.

Patricia was a long-time member of the Warren Seventh Day Adventist Church. She loved the Lord and lived a life of service to others. She taught children’s classes in the church, did community service delivering food boxes to those with need, taught vacation bible school and took children to sing to the shut-in elderly and residents in local nursing homes.

She was a registered nurse graduating from New England Sanitarium and Hospital in Stoneham. Her career consisted of positions in intensive care unit, emergency room, nursing supervisor and school nurse. Besides her regular employment she voluntari-

ly cared for people in the community assisting them with personal and nursing care.

She and her husband, Donald Nickerson, raised their nine children. She grew a large vegetable garden and enjoyed canning and freezing food each year. She loved singing, playing the piano, praying for others, walking and being with people. She grew up on a farm and had a lifelong love of animals and the outdoors.

Patricia’s family would like to thank her JGS Lifecare C2 caregivers for their daily devotion, love and support.

A private graveside service for Patricia is scheduled. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Warren SDA Church School.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware, is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Ware Police Log

Tuesday, April 14
12:36 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Pleasant Street – Investigated, Report Filed
6:30 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
10:11 a.m. Arrest Cummings Road – Arrest on Warrant
10:22 a.m. Missing Person Washington Street – Services Rendered
11:45 a.m. Ambulance Request Monson Turnpike Road – Services Rendered
1:11 p.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Berkshire Drive – Services Rendered
3:09 p.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
4:19 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Hillside Village – Referred to Other Agency
5:49 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Cummings Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000

Wednesday, April 15
1:15 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call South Street – Services Rendered
2:25 p.m. Alarm Burglar Robbins Road – Services Rendered
5:10 p.m. Alarm Burglar Church Street – Services Rendered
7:27 p.m. Harassment Complaint Fisherdick Road – Services Rendered

Thursday, April 16
3:15 p.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – False Alarm
8 p.m. Harassment Complaint Prospect Street – Investigation Pending
8:52 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Beaver Lake Road – No Police Service Necessary

Friday, April 17
1:46 a.m. Ambulance Request Gould Road – Services Rendered

11:48 a.m. Fraud Warebrook Drive – Services Rendered
12:58 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call North Street – Services Rendered
3 p.m. Abandoned, Vehicle Anderson Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
3:05 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Anderson Road – Services Rendered
4:11 p.m. Investigation West Street – Arrest, Felony Charge
Arrest: Salina Bortolussi, 28, Palmer
Drug, Distribute Class A; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class A; Drug, Possess Class B; Drug, Possess Class B
5 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report Dugan Road – Investigation Pending
6:20 p.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Referred to Other Agency
9:47 p.m. Harassment Complaint Highland Street – Services Rendered
11:15 p.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Referred to Other Agency

Saturday, April 18
7:18 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Monson Turnpike Road – Services Rendered
11:27 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Belchertown Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
4:22 p.m. Investigation West Street – Investigated, Report Filed
11:15 p.m. Loitering West Street – Verbal Warning Issued

Sunday, April 19
1:55 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Church Street – Services Rendered
5:46 a.m. Alarm Burglar Palmer Road – False Alarm
6:53 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Church Street – Services Rendered

10:38 a.m. Alarm Burglar Webster Road – Services Rendered
10:40 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Palmer Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
2:16 p.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Canal Street – Area Searched Negative Find
2:25 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
3:25 p.m. Trespassing Complaint Osborne Road – Verbal Warning Issued
6:37 p.m. Ambulance Request Howard Road – Services Rendered

Monday, April 20
12:21 a.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Services Rendered
2:17 a.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Referred to Other Agency
9:26 a.m. Ambulance Request Old Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
12:30 p.m. Ambulance Request Cummings Road – Services Rendered
3:01 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Palmer Road – Services Rendered
6:23 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Aspen Street – Area Searched Negative Find
9:59 p.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Referred to Other Agency
11:37 p.m. Harassment Complaint High Street – Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 21
12:55 a.m. Ambulance Request High Street – Services Rendered
2:36 a.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Services Rendered
11:12 a.m. Arrest Monson Turnpike Road

DESE to establish emergency sites for residential homes

BOSTON – Gov. Charlie Baker signed an executive order Thursday authorizing the Department of Early Education and Care to establish emergency sites for children and youth living in residential homes that have tested positive for COVID-19 and need to be cared for in quarantine or isolation. The Department of Early Education and Care is responsible for the licensing and oversight of residential programs and group homes, providing 24-hour custodial care and social services to children cared for by the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Development Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Youth Services and other organizations. EEC also works

with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to license residential schools. These programs remain open throughout the State of Emergency and will continue to do so. Some existing facilities do not have the capability to effectively isolate and quarantine individuals who have been exposed or tested positive for COVID-19. The goal of the temporary emergency residential sites is to accommodate the needs of COVID-19-exposed youth who cannot stay in their current residential placement. The order gives EEC the authority to do the following:

Open temporary emergency residential programs better suited to care for residents who need to be

quarantined or isolated; and

Provide appropriate flexibility around licensing regulations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while keeping educators, children and youth safe.

“In these unprecedented times, the dedication of our residential program providers and educators has been truly commendable,” said Early Education and Care Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy. “With today’s executive order, Governor Baker has enabled the Department of Early Education and Care to meet the needs of this community head-on.” Any provider interested in operating a temporary emergency residential site may apply on the EEC COVID-19 website.

PIONEERS from page 7

stadium this summer. So on that note it’s a bit disheartening.”

Kolodziey said he is hopeful the team will get the opportunity to play some games this season. He is hoping to see the Open Cup be rescheduled and possibly have some exhibition matches later this year.

“But obviously some things are out of your control,” he said. “But as of this week, the US Open Cup has not made a decision as to what they are doing with their tournament, so there is a chance we could be playing if they choose to go ahead with it.

“Other than that, we will monitor the health situation in the coming weeks and try to provide our great fans with some action at the stadium when and if we can. We are hoping to schedule exhibition games and for the young soccer players in the area, put together our summer soccer camp program.”

The league released a statement last Wednesday addressing the 2020 season:

These are unprecedented

times as the world faces a challenging COVID-19 health crisis. And while the issues at hand are about much more than sport, as supporters of our clubs we want to share with you our appreciation for the patience you have shown as we worked closely with league officials as well as local, state, and national health authorities to understand the impact of this global pandemic on our upcoming season.

After careful thought and consideration, it was determined that the challenges of our division being spread over multiple states, coupled with the existing health crises, were too great of a risk to our long-term sustainability, and we have therefore made the difficult decision to forego our participation in the 2020 USL League Two season.

“We absolutely support the Northeast Division’s decision,” said USL Vice President Joel Nash. “At the end of the day, it was about much more than soccer and we look forward to welcoming them back even stronger in 2021.”

Every member club in the

Northeast has worked tirelessly to provide the highest level of soccer possible to all of our communities in thrilling, family-friendly environments, each with their own local flavor. However, given the fluidity of the situation and the uncertainty presented to us, we felt the decision was necessary for the greater good of all involved. While we are bitterly disappointed about this turn of events, especially for the fans, players, and our supportive Northeast communities, we also vow to come back better than ever in 2021.

In the meantime, all six Northeast Division clubs encourage everyone within our respective communities to be kind to one another, to look after those in need, and to encourage social distancing as much as possible. As clubs, we will continue to stay active and engaged in our communities off the pitch, and welcome any and all support in those endeavors. Only together can we get through these trying times and come out stronger for it. We will get through this together.

I-RACING from page 7

YouTube channel to receive updates.

Prelim night is set to continue with support from Horton Group. Horton Group has partnered with Stafford Speedway to add 3 additional Prelim Night events with the final event scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th and broadcast live on Stafford Speedway’s YouTube channel. The top-5 from each prelim night will advance to Friday’s event.

Founded in 2000, Horton Group LLC is an award-winning, full-service construction, general contracting and facilities maintenance firm specializing in developing and building a variety of projects in the

residential and commercial sectors. For more information visit their website, www.hortongroupllc.com.

Stafford Speedway Schedule
Stafford Speedway eSeries presented by All Phases Renovations
Race #1 – Street Stocks 50 Laps
Friday, April 24
Live Stream – 7 p.m. Stafford Speedway YouTube
Race #2 – Late Models 60 Laps
Friday, May 1
Live Stream – 7 p.m. Stafford Speedway YouTube
Race #3 – Tour-Type Modifieds 80 Laps
Friday, May 8
Live Stream – 7 p.m. Stafford Speedway YouTube
Race #4 – Tour-Type Modified Invitational 80 Laps

Friday, May 15
Live Stream – 7 p.m. Stafford Speedway YouTube
Prelim Night presented by Horton Group
Race #1 – Street Stocks 50 Laps
Wednesday, April 22
Race #2 – Late Models 60 Laps
Wednesday, April 29
Race #3 – Tour-Type Modifieds 80 Laps
Wednesday, May 6th
Live Stream – 7 p.m. Stafford Speedway YouTube
For more information, visit www.staffordspeedway.com, checkout Stafford Speedway on Facebook or Twitter, or contact the track office at 860-684-2783.

Mission continues for Elder Abuse Unit

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

REGION – During a time where people are sharing spaces more and more, instances of abuse may be on the rise, including people with disabilities and elders.

However, the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office will not stand for abuse elders or disabled individuals during the ongoing lockdown.

District Attorney Dave Sullivan tasks the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit with protecting its namesakes, and the unit is prepared for whatever may occur.

“Our unit has not necessarily gotten an influx of referrals, however, we do anticipate that the domestic violence issues, the financial exploitation issues and the caregiver neglect issues are expected to increase,” said Rachel Senecal, unit Coordinator.

Many signs of abuse become apparent during social engagements. With the COVID-19 pandemic in full swing, many seniors and disabled persons cannot afford those interactions, and abuse becomes difficult to monitor.

“Often times, those social connections are what bring these situations to light, especially in terms of elder abuse,” said Senecal. “Seniors shouldn’t be afraid to say something. If someone is in a situation where they don’t feel safe or they feel as though they’re being neglected, they have a voice; they have the right to tell someone.”

Residents have grown reluctantly familiar with the concept of social isolation over the past month. Senecal hopes that the experience is eye-opening; for members of the senior and disabled populations, social isolation is nothing new.

“Senior isolation has been an issue,” she said. “It drastically affects mental and physical well-being, and I hope that this sheds some light on the serious issue and sparks conversation about what we can do to address it on a daily basis; not just during situations like this.”

Senecal’s unit is operating remotely at the moment; she thanked the office’s IT team for facilitating the transition.

Investigations are ongoing, but the circumstances have hindered the unit’s ability to prosecute cases. Many of those cases have been postponed.

“As far as prosecution goes, anything that was pending in court that’s not an emergency matter has been continued; a lot of things have been continued to mid or late-summer,” said Senecal. “For cases that are emergencies or any arrests and violent offenders that need to be addressed, we have the capability of doing hearings over the phone.”

As a precaution, the unit elected to suspend all in-person outreach indefinitely. Senecal re-iterated that all residents must be mindful of local seniors while staying distant.

“Put it in the perspective of your own life. Most people have someone in their lives who is a senior, and you have to think about how detrimental it would be if your senior family member contracted this disease,” she said. “These seniors are put in isolation in health care facilities. No one can even visit them. Think of how heartbreaking that would be to have your own family member go through something like this; not only just go through something like this, but go through something like this alone.”

Senecal added that “it isn’t glamorous and it isn’t fun,” but everyone must do his and her part to flatten the curve. To access the Elder Abuse Hotline, one can dial 1-800-922-2275. The Disabled Person Protection Commission Hotline can be reached at 1-800-436-9009.

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at DZbierski@turley.com

Gabe’s has almost met \$5,000 goal

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – Gabe’s, short for the Gabriel Narutowicz Club, at 11 East Main St. has almost raised the \$5,000 it needs to ride out the COVID-19 closures, but it needs just a little more. As of Wednesday morning it had raised \$4,350 through the fundraising site, Go Fund Me.

It has been in a tough spot as a social club since it is collectively owned by its members, and is also open to the public. It offers a bar with food and also rents out its function rooms for parties and weddings.

With no ability to bring in money right now, it still needs to pay its utilities and insurance, said Gabe’s manager Kim Trzpit several weeks ago. If it is successfully raised, it should cover the club until it can reopen, hopefully by June.

The club has been around at least since 1932, and was named for Gabriel Narutowicz, who



Turley Publications courtesy photo
Gabe’s, also known as the Gabriel Narutowicz Inc. Club, at 11 East Main St., in Ware, has gone to GoFundMe to raise money to weather the closure of non-essential businesses in the wake of COVID-19.

served as Poland’s first president in 1922. He was assassinated after serving for five days. He previously served as the Minister of Public Works from 1920 to 1921, and briefly as Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1922. A renowned engineer and politically independent,

he was the first elected head of state following Poland’s regained sovereignty from partitioning powers.

Trzpit said both the employees, such as herself, and the customers, have been part of Gabe’s for decades.

She said the club had been doing better and was offering hall rentals, karaoke nights and a corn hole league, but with no continuing income it may have to close for good if the money is not raised.

While the club explored getting a small business loan, she said institutions are reluctant to make a loan because the club is collectively owned and run by members and no one person is considered the owner. Her sister suggested she raise money on GoFundMe, and that’s what she has done. Anyone who would like donate toward keeping it open can go to <https://www.gofundme.com/t/gabes-needs-help>.

Second Chance staff humbled by support

EAST BROOKFIELD – Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for Second Chance, but community support for their vet hospital staff is helping to inspire a weary staff. From handmade masks to gifts of cookies carrying sweet thank you notes to all the messages of support on social media and email, the community has embraced Second Chance with encouragement unlike ever before. Just this week, Second Chance announced a donor has offered to match up to \$10,000 in donations to help provide emergency funding and has already received over \$4,600 toward the goal.

Support began to swirl in the early days of the crisis when volunteers, eager to help while safeguarding their own health, offered to make masks for staff as news of the mask shortage was breaking. Second Chance’s Dr. Grace Park was busy on her time off, researching the best patterns and making masks from home. Second Chance shared Park’s tutorial with volunteers who began dropping their handiwork off at the North Brookfield hospital.

Heather Trombly, owner of heathercraftylove.com, which sells custom pet accessories and regularly donates 10 percent of sales to Second Chance, also started making masks to help protect hospital staff. Trombly said making the masks for Second Chance was important to her. “I’m teaching my two young children to give. I’m teaching them that kindness comes first. That helping others in their time of need is essential” Trombly said. “I’ve loved animals since I was a little girl and my children love animals too. I just think what all of they do at Second Chance is amazing and this is my way of saying thank you.” All the mask donations allowed Second Chance to donate their own supply of disposable masks to local hospitals to protect human healthcare staff on the frontline of the pandemic.

Second Chance began restricting access to hospital buildings and staff started retrieving pets from parking lots and sidewalks for appointments while pet owners attended exams virtually. Soon, surprises started popping up. The North Brookfield hospital staff were treated to cookies from the owner of a dog named Missy, along



Second Chance Animal Services Dr. Jackie Celmer with Missy, a patient. Second Chance employees are thankful for the support shown by Missy’s owner, who brought in cookies for the staff.

with a note of support. At the Springfield hospital, the phones have been ringing off the hook and staff have been touched by how grateful pet owners have been to have somewhere to turn for help for their pets.

In Worcester, Second Chance staff discovered homemade masks and a Dunkin’s gift card tucked inside a patient’s carrier along with a sweet note thanking them for staying open to care for pets during the crisis. “From the earliest days of the COVID-19 outbreak, we began preparing contingencies to continue to be here for the pets that need help right now,” said CEO Sheryl Blancato, who is heartened by the show of support. “I am touched by all the messages we’ve received on social media and email. So many people are trying to find ways to help others as their own lives have been upended by the pandemic. They inspire us and help renew our weary staff.

Blancato is hopeful the emergency matching gift fundraiser will help the nonprofit cover all the added costs that come with operating during the crisis. Those interested in donating can donate online through the special fundraiser on the Second Chance Faceook page or the secondchanceanimals.org homepage. Checks mailed to Second Chance, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515 with MATCH on the memo line will also be matched through April 30.

Second Chance Animal Services vet tech Elizabeth Amato with a thank you sign for patients and supporters for their gifts of masks along with treats for the workers.



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Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Three-way race for selectman’s seat

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN – This year’s Town Election on June 16 will be a three-way race for one three-year selectman’s seat, with incumbent Dario F. Nardi, of 49 Lombard St., getting competition from David P. Dufresne Sr., of 370 Cutler Road and Peter H. Krawczyk, of 21 School St.

Krawczyk has been involved in different aspects of town including a long stint on the Planning Board. Dufresne was appointed to a vacancy on the Planning Board last year and is also running for re-election to the Planning Board. Town Clerk Nancy Lowell said Dufresne had already checked with the state to be sure he could run for both seats and serve on both if elected. Nardi originally said he did not plan to run for re-election.

Moderator Vincent J. McCaughey, of 99 Burbank Ave. will run unopposed for re-election. Other non-contested candidates include Donald J. Makowski, of 18 Milton O. Fountain Way, for a three-year term on the Board of Health; Timothy J. Czub,

of 475 South St., for a one-year term on the Board of Health; Lisa A. Boucher, of 32 Jones St., for a three-year term on the Park Commission; Bruce Martin, of 122 High St., for a three-year term as assessor; Joan A. Lavigne, of 65 Prospect St., for a three term on the Sewer Commission; Daniel R. Zrate, of 209 Maple St., for a three-year term on the Cemetery Commission; Edward F. Londergan, of 90 Bragg Road, for a one-year term on the Planning Board; Drue C. King, of 281 Bragg Road, for a two-year term on the Planning Board, Richard J. Eichacker, of 59 Burbank Ave, for a three-year term on the Planning Board; and Francis T. Holmes, of 11 Constitution Ave., for a five-year term on the Housing Authority.

Also on the ballot will be Matthew J. Pelouin, of 453 Keys Road, and Andrew D. Schwenker, of 1015 Reed St., for three-year terms on the Quaboag Regional School Committee. There will also be two candidates from West Brookfield for the School Committee: Tracy L. Waz, of 33 Milk St., and James C. Wilson III, of 91 Birch Hill Road.

Three outdoor activities to do

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust has suggestions for three activities people can do with their families outside.

Hang trail markers, tags

People can pick any East Quabbin Land Trust preserve they would like to work at. They can take the family out for a hike and re-hang the boundary tags or trail markers along the way. Replace the current nails with aluminum nails and place pressure treated wood between the tree and the tag. This prevents the nails from getting sucked into the tree as it grows. The EQLT provide the materials and instructions.

Road-side clean-up

Before leaf-out is a perfect time to pick up the trash that’s accumulated along the road edges over

the winter. The EQLT have yellow bags to share. Residents should focus on their own road, or one that is a major thoroughfare in the region. Help beautify your neighborhoods for Earth Day, April 22. This is something the whole family can do together.

Cutting brush

Loopers are wonderful tools and can cut young saplings and bushes up to one inch in diameter. There are lots of places where the EQLT can’t mow and it doesn’t want trees to grow.

Take the family and spend an hour (or so) cutting brush along the edge of the Mass Central Rail Trail on Church Street in Ware. There’s plenty of space to spread out and it’s possible to see the results of the work immediately.

Anyone wanting to do these tasks should contact Cynthia Henshaw chenshaw@eqlt.org.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Revolutions per minute

4. Hymns

10. Brew

11. Did not acknowledge

12. Atomic #77

14. Partly digested food

15. Not one

16. Lesotho capital

18. Copyreading

22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter

23. One’s biological father

24. An aggregate of molecules

26. Equally

27. Khoikhoi people

28. Jump in figure

30. Lantern

31. TV network

34. Georges __, French philosopher

36. Sharp, shrill bark

37. Albanian monetary units

39. Launched Apollo

40. One who graduated

41. Exist

42. Passed by

48. Very unpleasant smell

50. Graduates

51. Seedless raisin

52. Self-protection

53. Clue

54. Life-savers

55. Ingest too much

56. Misrepresented

58. Small Eurasian deer

59. Most mocking

60. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Flower cluster

2. A form

3. Inner organ regions

4. Local law enforcement

5. A citizen of Senegal

6. Positively charged electrodes

7. Connects granules

8. Business practice

9. The Mount Rushmore State

12. Leader

13. Hindu queen

17. Proofreading mark

19. European country

20. Greek mythological

nymph

21. Grandfather

25. Clears

29. Amount of time

31. Mollusks

32. German municipality

33. Body part

35. City of Angels

hoopsters

38. Suffocate

41. Pleasing to the eye

43. Poplar trees (Spanish)

44. Ship officer

45. Individual investment account (abbr.)

46. Prefix meaning within

47. Ceased to live

49. Day by day

56. Not color

57. Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)

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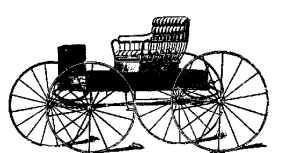
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